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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Switzerland/Austria

DATE DISTR. 23 OCT 51

SUBJECT Procedures in Switzerland and Austria
for Obtaining "Test Certificates" for
Chilean Copper

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1. Swiss firms, when acting as brokers for the purchase of Chilean copper for direct shipment to buyers in East European countries other than Switzerland, carry out the following procedure: The Swiss firms themselves make up a "certificate of bona fides", giving particulars of the sale, such as the price, quantity, sellers, shipping date etc., and the name and address of the buyer, who does not necessarily have to be the end-user. Apparently without further formalities* this certificate is submitted by the Swiss firm direct to the Chilean Legation, which approves and forwards it to Chile for the issuance of an export license. There is no further check on shipments licensed and exported under this procedure. [REDACTED] claimed that this constituted "a big hole through which shipments were going to the East".
2. In Austria the procedure for firms purchasing Chilean copper is different from that carried out in Switzerland. The terms of the purchase (Price etc.) must first be approved by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and the National Bank. Then the buyers** (the factory end-users) deposit the schilling counter-value, after which the buyers apply to the Ministry of Foreign Trade for a "test certificate". When this is granted, they have it vised by the Chilean Legation and may then apply for an import license.

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* Comment: [REDACTED] It is possible that a chamber of commerce or some other official body may certify as to the bona fides of the Swiss brokerage firm. The impression gained, however, is that the whole procedure is a very loose one.

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25X1A ** Comment: If an importing firm functions as the buyer, it receives a commission from the Austrian end-user and/or the Chilean supplier. The actual end-users and the quantities they receive are determined by the Ministry of Foreign Trade.

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